

"I have always been extremely concerned with preserving our environment, and I feel that the Private Stewardship Grants Program provided an excellent opportunity to help achieve this goal."

—Bethany Larue



Courtesy of the Gale Larue family

It took about a month to remove the old fence and put in a new one to create a barrier to trash-dumping and redirect traffic that had gone through the nine-acre, wooded wetland to a field. With parents Gale and Vicki providing encouragement, the Larue children—Clayton, Ross, Elena, Bethany, and Alyssa—did the work.

Interested in biology, Bethany likes the wetland even more because of the raven's foot sedge. The plants are now thriving in their protected habitat.

The 282-acre farm has been in the Larue family for five generations.

For more information:

www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/private_stewardship/index.html

Service regional contacts are listed on page 23.

"This was a small grant—\$8,200—to fence a wetland to protect a State-listed plant species on a family farm. The project was a family initiative. The Fish and Wildlife Service provided the material, and the Larues did everything else. They were a real pleasure to work with."

—Pete Fasbender, Fish and Wildlife Service



Courtesy of USDA

Private Stewardship Grants

What are the benefits?

For the landowner: Allows private landowners to submit project proposals directly to the Fish and Wildlife Service and offers a low cost-share ratio to assist landowners in implementing conservation measures.

For the species: Restores or protects habitats for species, may improve species status, may reduce costs associated with recovery of listed species, and helps build partnerships for the species.

Who can participate?

Individuals and groups engaged in conservation efforts on privately held lands.

In FY 2005, the Service awarded more than \$5.7 million to private landowners in support of projects that benefit imperiled species.